What is claimed is:

1.   A control unit for executing data communication between itself and another control unit comprising:

a CPU which is operated in accordance with a prescribed program;

a high frequency oscillator for producing first clock pulses for operating the CPU at a first frequency;

a low frequency oscillator for producing second clock pulses for operating the CPU at a second frequency which is lower than said first frequency;

an exchanging means for exchanging clock pulses for operating the CPU from said first clock pulses to said second clock pulses when a prescribed condition is satisfied, thereby shifting the CPU to a low power consumed state;

abnormality detecting means for detecting abnormality of the low frequency oscillator; and

exchange stopping means for stopping exchange of the clock pulses by said exchanging means if the said abnormality detecting means detects the abnormality when said prescribed condition is satisfied.

2.   A control unit according claim 1, wherein said abnormality detecting means includes a counting means for counting the second clock pulses produced from said low frequency oscillator while said CPU is operated at the first frequency.

3.   A control unit according to claim 1, wherein said

exchange stopping means sends an exchange request signal to other control unit so that they are shifted into the low power consumed state even the CPU corresponding to said exchange stopping means cannot be shifted into the low power consumed

5   state.

4.   A control unit according to claim 2, wherein said exchange stopping means sends an exchange request signal to other control units so that they are shifted into the low power consumed state even when the CPU corresponding to said

10   exchange stopping means cannot be shifted into the low power consumed state.

5.   A multiplex communication system for executing data communications among control units which are interconnected via a bus line, wherein each said control units comprises:

15   a CPU which is operated in accordance with a prescribed program;

a high frequency oscillator for producing first clock pulses for operating the CPU at a first frequency;

a low frequency oscillator for producing second clock

20   pulses for operating the CPU at a second frequency which is lower than said first frequency;

an exchanging means for exchanging clock pulses for operating the CPU from said first clock pulses to said second clock pulses when a prescribed condition is satisfied, thereby

25   shifting the CPU to a low power consumed state;

abnormality detecting means for detecting abnormality

of the low frequency oscillator; and

exchange stopping means for stopping exchange of the

clock pulses by said exchange means if the said abnormality

detecting means detects the abnormality when said prescribed

5   condition is satisfied.